



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

## TWO NOTES ON WORDS.

## I. ANGLO-SAXON AS A NAME OF THE LANGUAGE.

IN the *New English Dictionary* the earliest date given for the term *Anglo-Saxon* as a name of the Old English language is 1783. The relevant part of the article is as follows :

‘**Anglo-Saxon.** II. Extended to the entire Old English people and language before the Norman Conquest. **B.** *adj.* (*absol.* The Old English language.) [1605 CAMDEN *Rem.* (1614). . . . 70 *Folc*, the English Saxon woorde for people. 1715 E. ELSTOB (title) *The Rudiments of Grammar for the English Saxon tongue*]. 1783 BAILEY, *Anglosaxon*, the Saxon language as it was spoken in England.’

So far as I am aware, no one has hitherto pointed out any earlier instance of the word in English in this sense, and the quotation given in the *Dictionary* has been accepted as the first use. Thus, recently, Cook, in a note to his translation of Sievers, *Old English Grammar* (third edition), p. 1, ‘The use of “Anglo-Saxon,” as an English term applying to the language, dates from only 1783 (cf. *New Engl. Dict.* s. v.).’ This comparative lateness of the term, is, as all know, one of the reasons for preferring the designation Old English. The latter, however, is now so well established that its use is not likely to be endangered if a few occurrences of the word Anglo-Saxon earlier than 1783 be pointed out.

In the first place, the 1783 edition of Bailey’s *Etymological Dictionary*, in which Anglo-Saxon is defined as above, is the twenty-fifth. The book was first published in 1721, sixty-two years earlier. Whether it then already contained the passage quoted, the present writer can not say, as the copy of Bailey to which he has access is of the same twenty-fifth edition

(Edinburgh, 1783). But it is likely that the entry occurs in some earlier editions, if not in the very first.

In Johnson's *Dictionary* (1755), the word Anglo-Saxon is not given in the body of the work, among words defined. In the *Preface* and in the accompanying *History of the English Language*, Johnson uses the terms 'Saxon' and 'the Saxon language.' In the *History*, however, he gives a table, which he attributes to Hickes (author of the *Linguarum veterum septentrionalium thesaurus*, etc., 1703-1705), in which 'Anglo-Saxon' is used as a generic term including 'Dutch, Frisick, English.'

Much earlier, however, nearly two centuries earlier than the instance given in the *New English Dictionary*, is the following unmistakable use of the word in the recent sense, from Puttenham's *Arte of English Poesie* (1589), lib. 3, chap. 4, (p. 156, ed. Arber):

'Then when I say language, I meane the speach wherein the Poet or maker writeth be it Greek or Latine, or as our case is the vulgar English, and when it is peculiar vnto a countrey it is called the mother speach of that people: the Greekes terme it *Idioma*: so is ours at this day the Norman English. Before the Conquest of the Normans it was the Anglesaxon.'

## II. *Lee*, MEANING '*stream*,' IN SPENSER.

The third stanza of Spenser's *Prothalamion* begins (ll. 37-38):

With that I saw two Swannes of goodly hewe  
Come softly swimming downe along the Lee.

In a note on the word in his *Longer English Poems* (p. 207), J. W. Hales says, 'We do not know of its occurring elsewhere than here as a common noun.' Reference to the *Glossary* published with the *Globe* edition of Spenser, however, is sufficient to show that Spenser uses the same word in at least two more passages, which are herewith appended, with another.

*Faërie Queene*, v. 2. 19. 1-2 :

His corps was carried downe along the Lee,  
Whose waters with his filthy bloud it stayned.

*Ruines of Time*, 134-135 (not in *Glossary*) :

And where the christall Thamys wont to slide  
In silver channell, downe along the Lee.

*Ibid.*, 603-606 :

Whilest thus I looked, loe ! adowne the Lee  
I sawe an Harpe stroong all with silver twyne,  
And made of golde and costlie yvorie,  
Swimming.

In the last passage the 'Lee' is the river Thames, as before.

This word, *lee* as a common noun in the sense of 'stream,' is not in the *New English Dictionary*, the *English Dialect Dictionary*, the *Century*, or in any other which I have consulted. It is apparently peculiar to Spenser. There can be little doubt that, as Hales suggests, it is the familiar river-name *Lea*, adopted as a common noun. Occurring in *The Faërie Queene* and the *Prothalamion*, it is certainly entitled to recognition.

W. STRUNK, JR.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY.